

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment after final has been prepared in accordance with an office interview with Examiner Vo held on October 1, 2003 for which Applicant would like to extend his many thanks.

The current prosecution deals with elected claims 1-16, the remaining claims 17-22 related to the manufacture having been withdrawn in response to an election/restriction requirement.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the Smith, Jr., *et al.*, Okey and Frank, *et al.* patents. As discussed in the office interview, Applicant submits that it would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to replace the fiberglass scrim (67) of Smith by the aluminum foil from the polyamide composite shown in Okey because the foil would not provide the reinforcement support to the laminate of Smith, Jr. Furthermore, the purpose of the foil in Okey is for anti-corrosion purposes (see column 2, lines 54-60) making it even more non-obvious to substitute it for reinforcement purposes in Smith, Jr.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on combining the Smith, Jr., *et al.*, Okey and Frank, *et al.* patents, Applicant also

submits that it would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, such as the Applicant who himself is a good example of a person of ordinary skill in the art, to also take the fiber grid (3) from Frank, *et al.* and substitute it for the glass fiber scrim (63) in Smith, Jr., *et al.* because Frank is from non-analogous art directed to sound absorption material whereas Smith is related to heat insulation material.

Thus the claims have been amended to further emphasize the distinctions of Applicant's invention. In summary, claim 1 has been amended as discussed in the office interview to insert "wire" before "mesh" in line 7, in line 2 to insert "reflective" in place of "metal" before "foil" to provide antecedent basis for use of the term "reflective foil" later in claim 1 and finally in line 14 to delete the word "pliable," which, although implicit in Applicant's patent application, was considered new matter by the examiner.

Claim 9 has also been amended to overcome the §112 rejection raised by the examiner in paragraph 12 of the subject office action.

Finally, Applicant hereby encloses formal drawings to be substituted in place of the informal drawings submitted when the application was originally filed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant requests that claims 1-16 be passed to allowance as expeditiously as possible.

Again, the Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the office interview and should the examiner have any comments or suggestions prior to passing this application to allowance, a call to the undersigned attorney of record is invited.

Respectfully submitted,
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Response and Amendment After Final with attached formal drawing page are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No.: (703) 872-9310 on the 2nd day of October, 2003.


Legal Assistant

Attachment: Formal drawing page (1 of 1)

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